

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0064] as shown in the published application consistent with page 15, line 11 of the original specification as filed:

[0064] Referring again to FIG. 12, the top surface of the filter media bed **60** includes space **62** (see also FIGS. 24 2-4) that is open and untouched by the upper perforated plate. In such embodiment, the upper filter media zone **60A** remains uncompressed by not only the housing **25**, but also avoids external top to down compression from the upper plate **30** because of spacing **62**. It will also be appreciated that the initial compression with relatively uncompressed upper filter media bed **60A** with an open surface and the compressed lower filter media bed **60B** will result in greater particulate penetration than if the upper filter media bed **60A** were compressed or the entire bed were compressed. Finer particulates may therefore be captured in the lower media bed **60B** as greater penetration is achieved. It is thus an object of the present invention to maximize fluid filtering efficiency.